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Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
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R 211800Z OCT 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6458

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA
SUBJECT: SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL) --SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHARTER REVIEW AND STRENGTHENING ROLE OF UN

REF: USUN 3947

SUMMARY: SIXTH COMMITTEE CONTINUED DEBATE ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHARTER REVIEW AND STRENGTHENING ROLE OF UN (SPECIAL COMMITTEE) ON OCT. 19 AND HEARD STATEMENTS BY ITALY, JAMAICA, MEXICO, ROMANIA, MONGOLIA, PERU, NEPAL, USSR, AUSTRALIA, CHINA, BRAZIL, FRG, SAUDI ARABIA. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. ITALY CALLED UPON STATES TO REEXAMINE THEIR POSITIONS ON ITEM AND TO PUT FORWARD CONCRETE PROPOSALS. URGED STATES TO AVOID VOTES IN FUTURE AND TO RECOGNIZE THAT PROGRESS WILL REQUIRE TIME. SAID SPECIAL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE WILLING TO EXAMINE ALL PROPOSALS.

2. JAMAICA SAID IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED IN SPECIAL COMMITTEE, BUT SAID THAT STAGE NOW BEING REACHED. URGED PERMANENT MEMBERS NOT BE OVERLY SENSITIVE AS BY REFUSING TO DISCUSS AT ALL CHANGES IN THE VETO. SAID CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CHARTER
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WERE OUTDATED, SUCH AS THOSE RELATING TO TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, AND THERFORE, NO ONE SHOULD REFUSE CONSIDER SOME CHARTER CHANGES. HOWEVER, ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UN.

3. MEXICO SAID CHARTER FAILED TO REFLECT VIEWS OF MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF UN SINCE THEY WERE NOT PRESENT WHEN CHARTER

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DRAFTED. SAID CHARTER HAD BEEN DRAFTED BY VICTORS OF
WW II IN ORDER TO SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. SAID BASIS OF
CHARTER SHOULD BE RETAINED BUT PARTS SHOULD BE MORE REFLEC-
TIVE OF AND ADVANCE INTERESTS OF ALL STATES. SAID SEVERAL
ARTICLES AND EVEN WHOLE CHAPTERS OF CHARTER FAILED TO
SERVE NEEDS OF MODERN WORLD. CALLED A POSITION OF AUTOMATIC
REVERSAL OF ALL CHARTER CHANGES "ABSURD". AGREED THAT ANY
CHARTER AMENDMENTS MUST BE BROADLY NEGOTIATED AND MUST NOT
AFFECT FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF CHARTER. SAID THAT LARGE
NUMBER OF PROPOSALS OF STATES REFLECTED THE RANGE OF
POSSIBLE CHANGES. EMPHASIZED THAT MANY OF THE CHANGES
WOULD NOT REQUIRE CHARTER AMENDMENTS, AND SPECIFIED FOLLOW-
ING AREAS WHERE THESE CHANGES MIGHT BE MADE: PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT TF DISPUTES, RATIONALIZATION OF EXISTING UN
PROCEDURES, MANDATORY MINISTERIAL ECOSOC MEETING EACH YEAR.

4. ROMANIA SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO REVERSE THE TENDENCY
OF STATES TO SETTLE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS OUTSIDE UN. SAID
ROLE OF UN MUST BE STRENGTHENED BUT SAID UN MUST ALSO BE
MADE MORE DEMOCRATIC BEFORE IT WILL BE USED MORE OFTEN.
URGED CHANGES WHICH WILL MAKE UN MORE REFLECTIVE OF NEW
REALITIES. SAID FACT THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD STARTED
AN ADMITTEDLY LONG-TERM UNDERTAKING DID NOT MEAN EXERCISE
WAS PURELY ACADEMIC AND CALLED ON MEMBERS OF SPECIAL
COMMITTEE TO CONCENTRATE ON PROPOSALS MOST LIKELY TO
PRODUCE GENERAL AGREEMENT. SAID SPECIAL COMMITTEE SHOULD
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PROCEED TO A LISTING AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS AND
URGED ALL MEMBERS TO COOPERATE IN THIS REGARD.

5. PERU SAID STRUCTURE OF UN WAS INADEQUATE. CALLED ON
SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO MOVE ON TO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. ALSO
URGED REVERSAL IN TREND TO DEAL WITH CERTAIN PROPOSALS
OUTSIDE UN SYSTEM.

6. NEPAL SUPPORTED EFFORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND URGED
CHARTER BE A DOCUMENT WHICH REFLECTS PRESENT REALITIES.

7. USSR SUPPORTED STRENGTHENING ROLE OF UN AND URGED
STRICT ADHERENCE TO CHARTER. REJECTED ALL ATTEMPTS TO
CHANGE CHARTER BECAUSE TIME-TESTED AND ADEQUATE TO PRESERVE
PEACE AND SECURITY, MAIN OBJECTIVE OF UN. SAID REAL NEED
WAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UN CHARTER AND DECISION. ANY
CHANGE IN CHARTER WAS FRAUGHT WITH DANGERS FOR UN AND WORLD,
TO DETRIMENT OF SMALL COUNTRIES. SAID UN WOULD ONLY GAIN
IF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ENDED. SAID CANNOT SUPPORT DRAFT
RESOLUTION AS STANDS. SUPPORTED LANGUAGE ON NEED FOR
CONSENSUS, AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CYPRUS AMENDMENT
(REFTEL). MONGOLIA AND GDR MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS; GDR

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ALSO SUGGESTED SPECIAL COMMITTEE NOT MEET FOR ONE YEAR IN
ORDER ALLOW RECONSIDERATION OF ITS VALUE AND PRACTICES.

8. AUSTRALIA SAID NO PRODUCTIVE RESULTS LIKELY FROM VOTE
AND URGED CONCENTRATION ON PROPPSALS LIKELY GATHER GENERAL
SUPPORT. CALLED FOR INVESTIGATION FIRST OF CHANGES
ACHIEVABLE WITHIN PRESENT CHARTER.

9. CHINA SAID OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF STATES FAVOR REVIEW,
BUT SUPERPOWERS, ESPECIALLY ONE REJECTING ALL CHANGES,
ATTEMPT TO THWART MAJORITY DESIRES. SAID CHARTER NOT
ADAPTABLE TO ALL EEDS. SAID STATEMENTS THAT CHARTER REPISION
WILL CAUSE THIRD WORLD WAR WERE ABSURD AND EXPOSED TRUE
IMPERIALISTIC NATURE OF THIS SUPERPOWER. SUPPORTED CON-
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TINUATION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND CONCLUSION OF MANDATE.
STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH CONSENSUS NEEDED, VOTING MUST BE POSSIBLE.

10. BRAZIL SAID THOSE IN FAVOR CHARTER REVIEW HAD BEEN
RESTRAINED, NOT ASKING COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF VETO. SAID
CHARTER ITSELF ENCOURAGED AMENDMENTS. SAID ANALYTICAL
PAPER OF SECRETARIAT WAS USEFUL BUT SHOULD NOT BECOME A
STRAITJACKET. URGED SPECIAL COMMITTEE BEGIN CONSIDERATION
OF SPECIAL PROPOSALS.

1. FRG ENCOURAGED ANY ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN ROLE OF UN.
SAID WAS CONSIDERABLE ROOM WITHIN CHARTER FOR CHANGE;
OTHER CHANGES REQUIRE GREAT CARE.

12. SAUDI ARABIA (BAROODY) OPPOSED TAMPERING WITH
CHARTER; SAID FAULT NOT IN CHARTER BUT IN STATES.
DEPLORED EMPHASIS ON LETTERS OF CHARTER RATHER THAN ITS
SPIRIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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